Khan Bahadur G. Saiyid Abdul Karim Sahib Suhrawardy: Mr. Ismail said of middle men making money. In the matter of recruitment for the Special Constabulary, Sir, one incident happened in this connection. A man came to see me for jobs to some people in the Police I saw about 10 persons standing outside. When inquired of them why they were there they told me that the man who came to see me had got one rupee from each of them promising them jobs as Special Constables. I at once chased the blackguard out of the compound. He went to the Chief Secretary whom I may be jocularly permitted to call my mother-in-law and complained about me.

President: The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 8,76,710 under Demand XIII—Police.

The motion was put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIV—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV — Agriculture and Fisheries.

President: Here again, 15 names are given to me. I take it the same thing applies to this Demand also. I think it would be better if the honourable members give me smaller lists of names to enable them to talk a little more. In any case, it is a matter entirely for the House to decide.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I support the demand. In the first place let me congratulate the Director of Agriculture for the active work that he is doing in the interests of our agricultural population. But all the same I have to make one or two suggestions. On a perusal of the Administration Report of the Department I learn that the experimental Farm at Koni does not yield properly. And the yield is going down year by year. Therefore it is better to close it down or lease it to some individual who can conduct the work profitably.

Another thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the Department is about the stud bulls to be maintained by the Department. In answer to an interpellation it was said that a very large number of stud bulls are necessary for the improvement of the cattle in the State. The Department is maintaining only 7 stud bulls in the State of which 5 are kept in the 5 wards of the Trivandrum Municipality. In view of the fact that most people

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in Travancore are agriculturists and comparitively poor it is highly necessary that one stud bull should be maintained in each taluk by the Government. Moreover sufficient grazing grounds should be provided for cattle in all the taluqs in the State.

Another point is about the encouragement which ought to be given for the cultivation of groundnuts. On page 28 of the Administration Report it is stated like this :

> "This is an annual herbaceous plant the seeds of which yield when expressed the well-known ground-nut oil of commerce. The cake which remains after the expression of the oil is rich in protein and constitutes a valuable feeding stuff. Ground-nut is an important industrial crop in South India, but is not cultivated anywhere in Travancore except in some of the Departmental farms though it has been established by actual trials that it can be successfully grown practically all over the State This is largely due to the fact that the demand in Travancore for both kernals and oil is negligible. A market as yet to be developed for this crop and until then there is no likelihood of regular or systematic cultivation of ground-nuts being under taken in the State."

Now there is a great amount of demand for ground-nuts in British India. A reference to the Hindus daily edition will show that ground nuts occupies an important place in the Madras Produce. There is very little difference between the price of cocoanut oil and ground-nut oil. It is said that ground-nut contains large quantities of vitamin and is a healthy eatable product. My own experience shows that it will thrive properly in North Travancore. There are other places here where large scale cultivations can be carried on. Being an important product which has got a very large demand outside our State sufficient encouragement should be given for its cultivation. It is not a costly cultivation. The Department has tried its cultivation and found that it will thrive in Travancore considerably. With these few observations I support the demand.

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai: Sir, I support the motion. In supporting this demand, I wish to make a few remarks. It is rather very unfortunate that this Department is given a second rate importance and it is more unfortunate that this Department has come up for very severe adverse criticism. Sir, if this Department is not going to take up responsibility in the matter of improving the produce, how could we justify the continuance of it. As the Dewan President stated before the House, Sir, the main problem of how to make one blade of grass grow where..... .....

President : It is the other way.

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai: Yes Sir. The main problem is how to make two blades of grass grow where one grass grew before. It is this Department that has to take up this problem and work it,

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[Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai.]

Sir, the difficulty in our State is not want of experience or capable men. I am a member of the Agricultural Board ever since its inception. I have come in contact with experts I know that our men are very energetic and enthusiastic. They are men of character, very sincere and very anxious to raise the tone of the Department and make it really useful to the agriculturists. But, though these people do their best, their efforts do not seem to be a success and the Department has come up for severe criticism. I will lay the blame on the honourable members of this House. I will also blame the public to a certain extent. We are the representatives of the people. We are very slow and lazy and do not co-operate with the actual working of the Department and try to educate the public. We do not strive to spread the new scientific method of agriculture among the rural population. I have no time to deal with all these matters. One instance I shall bring to your notice. There was an Economic Botanist at Nagercoil. Nobody knew why he was posted there. I met him and asked him several questions. He was all along studying the nature of the soil in Nanjinad and evolving different varieties of paddy seeds to suit that locality even in seasons of drought. He discovered that a large portion of the soil of that area was alkaline in quality. He conducted research work and studied the condition of the soil in two places. In some places it was observed that the crop was destroyed owing to strong wind a few days before the harvest. In certain other places, where there was a shortage of water, such as the tail-end areas, a particular variety of drought resisting seeds had to be evolved. For these places, he evolved four kinds of paddy seeds. The results of his investigation are recorded on pages 11 and 12 of the administration report of the Department. That is a matter in which I had personal experience. After these seeds were evolved and tried in all these places they were found to be very successful and the yield was also greater. There was a great rush for those seeds and the poor man was not able to produce sufficient quantity to meet large scale supply. So, in the subsequent Board meeting, I moved a resolution that he must be given some more facilities to supply the seeds to meet the demands of the public. This resolution is found on page 30 of the proceedings of the Agriculture Board for the year ... .

President : The honourable member will finish his remarks.

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai : Sir, this is the resolution.... ... .

"That additional facilities be provided with Thiruppathisaram Paddy for the raising and distributing of improved strain of paddy seed to meet in ever increasing demands from the ryots".

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I quote this simply to show that inspite of the recommendations by the Board, Government have been very slow to sanction this recommendation. Owing to the fact the ryots are very slow to adopt new methods and also owing to the lack of co-operation on the part of the representatives and the public men, the Department is not able to do anything beneficial to the ryots.

Sir, there is an impression that this Department is doing nothing and that the money spent on this is wasted. (*Bell*)

Sir, one word more. I would make one suggestion. I have felt it necessary that this Department must have some control over the irrigation work. In some places one watering may be enough. But there may be other areas where there is much greater scarcity of water and when the ryots approach the irrigation officer he would say that only one watering is necessary. If there is an agricultural expert who will certify to the irrigation officer that in such and such an area one watering is not sufficient, then much of the hardships could be avoided.

President : The honourable member will resume his seat.

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai : I therefore submit that some authority over the irrigation matter will also be vested with this Department.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : Sir, I oppose the demand. This department is today proclaimed to be defunct and it is condemned by the people and the Government alike. Under the circumstances the question arises whether we are justified in continuing this department, especially in view of the fact that we are spending a lot for the maintenance of this ornamental appendage. This matter requires very serious consideration of the Government and the people. I am not in favour of its continuance as it is constituted now. My view is that its defect lies in the constitution of the Department and not in the personnel. The present Director, as my honourable friend Mr. Arumughom Pillai has remarked, is a man of brilliant character, and high academic qualifications. He is also a son of the soil. People have got considerable trust and faith in his ability. But I am positively of opinion that even if gods descent from their heavens and take charge of this department, they cannot improve matters. Unless Government take the matter very seriously and grapple this problem with all its implications the amount spent for the maintenance of this department will be a waste. My friend Mr. Arumughom Pillai threw all the blame up on the poor people.

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[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

It is indeed an irony of fate. They are really crushed by the fall of this industry. We all know that agriculture is the main industry of the vast bulk of the people of Travancore. They want to improve their agricultural facilities at all costs. When this is their attitude, there is no justification in throwing the blame on the people. My humble view is that a large responsibility rests with the Government. The Government must take up this matter very seriously. I wish to make one or two suggestions for the immediate attention of the Government. I shall point out some of the important difficulties which stand in the way of improving this department. The infinitesmal fragmentation of our holdings, the failure of crops due to drought and inundation economic depression are some of the causes which hamper the growth of our agricultural industry. In this connection, I wish to point out that some of our departments also indirectly contribute to the downfall of this industry. The departments of Land Revenue and Forest have got a major share in this. Our Land Revenue Department have ruthlessly registered the bunds and channels and the tank beds of the paddy fields in the name of strangers, without caring for the preservation of paddy land. The Forest Department also have encroached on agricultural holdings and evicted the cultivators from their holdings in their settlement operations. The strangers who obtained registry of those lands, planted big trees, under their shade, the paddy crops deteriorated. Unless these disabilities are removed, the Agriculture Department cannot function effectively. Under the existing circumstances almost all the nation building departments should act in co-ordination to revive this most important industry. The causes, stated to have contributed to the downfall, can be prevented with impunity. The functions of the said departments, so far as they have got bearing upon this problem, should be co-ordinated, and assigned to the Director of Agriculture. He may be given additional powers to deal effectively with idle cultivators.

The Co-operative Department should also be amalgamated with the Agriculture Department. The distribution of the agricultural loans also should be entrusted with the Agricultural Director.

Mrs. Abernam Gnanasikamony: Sir, I also wish to make a few remarks. Sir, the Agricultural Department affords no facility for improvement of the cultivation methods of the ordinary farmer. Have they brought any new fruit or root from other parts of the same tropic as East Indies. This is being done as is here, in other parts such as Mysore.

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In the Fruit Farm at the Cape, they have planted all varieties of fruit trees, graft mangoes, pomegranates, tomatoes, vines, etc. The people of Nanjinad have tried to grow, in their own gardens, graft mango plants and other seedlings taken from the Cape Farm. But these are liable to many diseases. I would appeal to the department to ascertain the nature of these diseases, to find out remedies, and to teach them to the public. If the Agriculture Department will do that, that will be a great help to the public.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, the biggest problem confronting us at present is the improvement of the economic condition of the agriculturist of the country. The methods now adopted by him are very primitive. Sir, our agriculturist is, by nature very conservative. The research work done by the department, the improved methods of cultivation recommended by the department, the new varieties of crops which the department seeks to introduce into the country, none of these is going to be of any real benefit to the ordinary agriculturist until and unless he is made to realise the advantages of such improved methods of cultivation, or of the new strains of seeds. Sir, if all these years the department has not been of any appreciable help to the ordinary ryot of the country, it is due to the very vide gulf that exists between him and the experiments and demonstrations conducted by the department. Sir, demonstrations, on an intensive scale on ryot's lands, are absolutely necessary to bring home to the ryot the various advantages of the improved methods of cultivation. In such demonstrations, it would be enough if the department would spend the excess cost involved viz., the cost of scientific manure etc., leaving it to the ryot to bear his usual cultivation expenses; and even such excess expenditure need be treated only as a kind of loan to the ryot, to be realised out of the yield of the demonstration crop if improvement is found. Sir, this is a very simple method of educating the ordinary ryot, in improved methods of cultivation; and it will not involve any heavy additional expenditure to Government. We can never expect our people to listen to the mere advice given by this department; we must actually satisfy them of the real efficacy of scientific methods of agriculture. That requires large-scale demonstrations on ryots lands. For that purpose Government should place the amount they now set apart for agricultural loans, at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture.

Then, Sir, as I said during the general discussion of the budget, the Agricultural Department by itself, without the co-operation of the Land Revenue Department, the P. W. D, the Forest Department and the Co-operative Department, cannot be of any real

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[Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar.]

use to the ryot. The moment such co-operation is forthcoming, I am sure the Agricultural Department will begin to receive the praise of this House and of the other House. Sir, there are ever so many impediments which stand in the way of this department doing good work. Several departmental farms have some how or other come into existence. They were not started last year or the year before ; they were started almost at the inception of the department. Sir, they have outgrown their usefulness. It is now high time that the department puts them to new use.

Now, Sir, this is the proper time for popularising the cultivation of tobacco, I chew tobacco and I was naturally attracted by tobacco exhibited at the entrance to this Hall. It seems to me that tobacco can be grown very successfully in Travancore.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Has the honourable member tasted that tobacco?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: No, Sir; the very sight of it is fascinating to me. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. K. Kuruvilla: Sir, I rise to express my appreciation of the very good work done by the present Director of Agriculture, and my sincere regret for the fact that it is not possible for even an officer of his ability to carry out his plans. It seems to me that he is labouring under several handicaps the most serious of which is his own staff. Government, in their review of the work of the department, observe that they regret to note that there is lack of intelligent co-operation on the part of the ryots, and that the desired results are not therefore attained. It seems to me, Sir, that, if there is little co-operation on the part of the ryots, it is mainly because of the indifference on the part of the majority of the Agricultural Inspectors. Sir, they are all very sociable, excellent gentlemen, but I am afraid they have lost all enthusiasm for work. There was a time when I was taking a keen interest in a garden. Many of the plants there were suffering from attacks of pests. I consulted an Agricultural Inspector. He visited the garden and examined the plants. He was very sympathetic to me and said that the only course was to appoint a special man to pick out the pests, one after another from the plants. I never more sought his advice. I rest content with the help I could get from my experienced friends.

Sir, the public are really anxious to co-operate with this department and to improve agriculture in the State. I believe they have grown so dejected that they really cannot give the help that we need. I am sure the Director is really suffering on account of the indifference of his subordinate officers. I hope this recent recruits are helpful and they will come to his rescue.

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Secondly, Sir, to my mind, he has not got the necessary materials with which to work, money and irrigation facilities. I understand that in the case of one individual who has done more for the spread of a particular variety of sugarcane than the department itself, when he asked for a loan to purchase a particular kind of mill to crush sugarcane, the Director of Agriculture was not able to get him the loan. Sir, how can any farmer, who devotes all his time and talent for agriculture, get on if he is not even helped with loans, by Government; in times of need. Sir, this gentleman has travelled extensively in North India, at his own expense, to study the method of cultivation there. I remember that, when the matter was brought before the Economic Development Board, the Director of Agriculture had a proposal that the loan should be granted if the mill would be purchased in the name of the Department. I do not know what has happened afterwards; anyhow it never came up again before the Development Board.

In regard to the lack of co-operation from other departments, it seems to me that the Agricultural Director must somehow secure greater co-operation from the Irrigation and the Co-operative Departments. Village Panchayats are coming; but they may take a long time. I wonder whether Government would bring into effect some arrangement by which the heads of departments would meet once in three months and discuss such questions as the co-operation of the Irrigation and the Co-operative Departments, with the Agricultural Departments. Such co-ordination of the work of the various departments is very essential in making the work of the Agricultural Department a success.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, my honourable friend on my left—he is not now here—Mr. Easwara Pillai, was inclined to be very pessimistic. Constitutionally, I am not a pessimist. I am the other way about, a robust optimist. Sir, we should not lose heart as a result of one or two disappointments. My own idea is that, if sufficient money and sufficient encouragement are given to this department, it would surely turn out very good work. As has already been pointed out, what is most important is demonstration, I mean demonstration on ryots' lands. Scientific theories, even if explained, will never appeal to the common agriculturist. Such scientific theories must be practically demonstrated to the ryot. He must be able to satisfy himself as to the truth of those theories. Until that is done, any amount of propaganda by the department will not be of any real use to the people. Till about a few years ago, it was the practice to hold exhibitions in places where people come in large numbers in connection with festivals, for instance, the "*Kali*" at Oachira. Now, I think that such demonstrations and exhibitions are neglected. They must be taken up. I remember that when I was a boy I saw an exhibition in Oachira and being

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[Mr. K. M. Kesavan]

myself an agriculturist, began to *vie* with my neighbour in the cultivation of certain plants, for example, tapioca and I got a prize at the next year's exhibition.

With regard to demonstration on ryots' lands I would suggest one thing. Recently I came to understand that large plots are taken for demonstration in a concentrated area. Rather than take large tracts for demonstration purposes, I think it will be advisable for plots of one or two acres being taken in several places of the country so that they might attract the attention of a lot of ryots living in the vicinity of each demonstration farm.

I wish to make an observation in regard to the cold storage. It is very unhappy that owing to the vindictive and nefarious propaganda carried on by the State Congress in the country the use of the cold storage was not made available to the people.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether it is not time to put such talk into the cold storage? (*Laughter.*)

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, I did not hear the member.

President: The honourable member is asked to put that discussion into cold storage.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, I am speaking about the Agriculture and Fisheries Department. Government would do well to devote their attention to the early completion of the cold storage and thereby make it possible for the people to use the fish that they require during all seasons of the year.

Miss Thresia Kora: I wish to say a word on the Agricultural Department. There is an opinion in some quarters that the Department of Agriculture is serving no useful purpose and that it has out-lived its period of utility. But I entirely disagree with that opinion. Our department is equal to any in British India and if it is not serving the best needs of the country it is becouse the funds allotted are not sufficient to cope with the requirements of the department.

Three things are necessary to develop this department. Firstly the Director of Agriculture must have power to grant agricultural loans. He must also be in charge of Agricultural tanks. Sufficient funds must be alloted to carry on the various Works.

With these words I support the demand.

Mr. Eric Hall (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the demand, as it gives me an opportunity for thanking Government for having granted the importation of

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tobacco leaf for the purpose of preparing a fungicide to combat the disease. "Thrips" which is prevalent. That is the sort of thing for which the Agricultural Department is intended. I trust that the Department will keep its eye on the result of the application of this fungicide to the disease.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം ഒരു കർഷകരാജ്യമാണ്. അതിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുവേണ്ടി പലതും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷി സാധ്യതകളെല്ലാം ഇപ്പോൾ അവഗണിച്ചിരിക്കയാണെന്ന് ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. പക്ഷെ ഇതുകൊണ്ട് കൃഷിയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും നാം പിൻവാങ്ങുവാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. എന്തെല്ലാം വിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ കഴിയുമോ അതൊക്കെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുകതന്നെ വേണം. അതിലേയ്ക്ക് എത്രതന്നെ ചെലവു സഹിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ ഒരു ക്ലിപ്തമായ ശതമാനം കൃഷിയുടേയും വ്യവസായത്തിന്റേയും അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുവേണ്ടി ചിലവാക്കണമെന്ന് നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് യാതൊരു ദോഷവുമില്ല. ഏതുതരം കൃഷിയാണ് ഇവിടത്തേയ്ക്ക് യോജിച്ചതെന്ന് പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കണം. ഇവിടത്തെ നെല്ല് കൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ഈ നാട്ടുകാക്ക് ജീവിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. കൃഷി വിഷയത്തിൽ പരിശീലനം സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ കൂടുതലായി ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ വേണമെങ്കിൽ നിയമിക്കണം. 4,00,000 രൂപാ ചെലവുചെയ്ത് ഇവിടെ മത്സ്യം പാകം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഒരു ശാലയുണ്ടാക്കിയതിൽ ചിലകൂട്ടരുടെ തോന്ന്യാസം കൊണ്ട് യാതൊരു പ്രവർത്തനവും നടത്തിയില്ലെന്നും ലാഭം ഒന്നുംതന്നെ കിട്ടിയില്ലെന്നും പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഏതായാലും ഇപ്പോൾ പരിതസ്ഥിതികൾ ശാന്തമായിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അടുത്ത വർഷത്തിലെങ്കിലും മത്സ്യ വ്യവസായം തുടങ്ങേണ്ടതാണ്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും അതു ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ വല്ല ഏജൻസികൾക്കും വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണം. ലാഭത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഈ പ്രാരംഭദശയിൽ നോക്കിയിട്ടാവശ്യമില്ല. മുടക്കിയ പണത്തിന്റെ പലിശ തൽക്കാലം കിട്ടിയാൽ മതി. ലാഭമൊന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെങ്കിലും തരക്കേടില്ല. വല്ല പ്രൈവറ്റ് ഏജൻസികൾക്കും രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ വർഷത്തേയ്ക്ക് വെറുതെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടെങ്കിലും ഇതിനെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കണം. ഇൻഡ്യയിലെവിടെയും കിട്ടുന്നതിലധികം മത്സ്യം ഈ രാജ്യത്തു നിന്നും പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതിന് സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അഞ്ചിലൊന്ന് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിന്നും ലഭിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന് പ്രസിഡൻറ് ഇ

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വിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതുകേട്ടു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് എന്തു ശ്രമംചെയ്തെങ്കിലും ഈ വ്യവസായത്തെ നടപ്പിൽകൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. പ്രൈവറ്റു് ഏജൻസികൾക്കു് വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനു് വിപരീതമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ വരുന്നവർക്കു തക്ക അനുഭവം അവർ കൊടുത്തുകൊള്ളും. എനിക്കു വിട്ടുതരികയാണെങ്കിൽ എന്തു എതിർപ്പു വന്നാലും അതിനെ തടഞ്ഞു പ്രവർത്തനം തുടരുകതന്നെചെയ്യും. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഫ ഫ ഫ ഖ-ൽ എങ്കിലും ഇതിനെ പൂർവ്വാധികം ഭംഗിയായി നടത്താൻ ശ്രമിക്കണം. അതുക്രടാതെ മത്സ്യവകുപ്പിലേക്കു ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ പരിശീലനം സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകളെ ഇൻഡ്യയിൽനിന്നോ മറേറതെങ്കിലും പാശ്ചാത്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽനിന്നോ വരുത്തി നിയമിക്കണം. ഇവിടത്തെ പഴയ കൃഷികളായ തെങ്ങു്, കരുമുളകു്, ഏലം, ചുക്കു് മുതലായ സാധനങ്ങൾക്കു വില തീരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയി. അതുകൊണ്ടു മറേറതെങ്കിലും പുതിയതരം കൃഷികളും കൈത്തൊഴിലുകളും തന്നെ ഇവിടെ പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ആനക്കൊമ്പിൽ വിചിത്രസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനു ശരിയായ മാർക്കറ്റു് കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചാൽ അതു് രാജ്യത്തിനു അഭിവൃദ്ധികരമായിരിക്കും.

ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷിയെ പരിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നതിനു് കൂടുതൽ പണം ചിലവാക്കണം. പുതിയ കൃഷികൾ നടത്തുമ്പോൾ നഷ്ടം വന്നേക്കാം. അതിൽ ഭയപ്പെടരുതു് ഇതു ലാഭനഷ്ടം തിട്ടപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ട ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറല്ല. ഗവേഷണപരമായി ചെയ്യുന്ന ശ്രമങ്ങൾക്കു ചിലപ്പോൾ നഷ്ടം സഹിക്കേണ്ടിവരും. പ്രാരംഭദശയിൽ ഇവയെപ്പറ്റി അതു പരിഗണിക്കാനില്ല.

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, as long as the majority of the inhabitants of this State are agriculturists, I think that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is necessary. My plea is that the Director of Agriculture should be the friend, philosopher and guide of the agriculturists in the State.

Sir, with reference to the fruit farm near Cape which is maintained by the Department, it may be stated that it is not paying. May be for it is not a commercial concern. All the same, it has given new ideas to people. I know that a large number of people, who had been there have seen that it is possible to cultivate high grade grapes. There are other fruit trees also which it is possible

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to cultivate in Travancore. It is not possible for the Department to plant such trees throughout Travancore. It is for the rich agriculturist who has seen the farm and who wants to introduce these fruit trees or fruit shrubs into his own compound to take the young plants that are available at the garden plant them and try them there.

Another point which comes to my mind is this. Unfortunately, the garden is situated in a place where the rainfall is so low that it is almost impossible to carry on the experiment in a successful way. That is why the Department has been trying to get the supply of water at least from the channel of the Pechipara Reservoir. But unfortunately it is not possible to get the water throughout the year. Therefore, proper experiments cannot be carried out in that garden.

The prices of paddy and other products in Travancore have gone so low that it is almost impossible to get even the cost of production from the sale of the paddy. Therefore my suggestion is that we should try and find out some " fresh woods and pastures new, namely commercial products which could be planted and reared in Travancore. Now, it has been demonstrated that it is possible to rear the tobacco plant in Travancore and make it a successful commercial concern. Sir, it will be a great thing if a large number of people would take to that industry and earn their living by cultivating tobacco. The Director of Agriculture has shown that it is possible and he has been good enough to produce the cured tobacco by the side of the Legislative Chamber.

Another article which could be tried by the people of the State is the Soya bean. The cultivation of soya been would be a profitable thing. I wish that there will be some enterprising individuals or organisations of people who will take up these things and work them. The Department cannot do more than help private individuals. The Department can only show the way and it is for the people to take it up and work it.

With these words, I support the Demand.

Mr. E. K. Kurippe: സർ, വടക്കൻ താലൂക്കിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഈ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകൊണ്ട് യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും സിദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ് മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിംകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇങ്ങനെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡയറക്ടർ സമർത്ഥനും നല്ല ഉത്സാഹിയും ആയതുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹത്തിൽ നിന്നും വല്ല ഗുണവും കിട്ടുമോ എന്നാണ് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

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Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishan Tampi : ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡയറക്ടർ വടക്കൻ താലൂക്കുകാരനല്ലേ?

Mr. E. K. Kurippe : അതെ, അദ്ദേഹം ദേവികുളത്തു് പല ഏലത്തോട്ടങ്ങളിലും വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടി സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതായി കണ്ടു. ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നതിലും ഉത്സാഹിക്കുന്നതിലും വളരെ സമർത്ഥനാണെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അറിവു്.

പരീക്ഷണാർത്ഥം കൃഷി ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ നഷ്ടം വന്ന എന്നുവരാം. എന്നാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. പരീക്ഷണം തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഇരിക്കണം. പരീക്ഷണം നടത്തുന്നതു ചുരുങ്ങിയ വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തായിരുന്നാൽ കുറഞ്ഞ ചിലവിൽ നടത്താവുന്നതും ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു പലതരം പുതിയ കൃഷികളും പരീക്ഷാർത്ഥം നടത്താവുന്നതുമാണു്. കൃഷി സംബന്ധമായ അറിവുകളെപ്പറ്റി കൃഷ്കന്മാക്കു് വേണ്ട ഉപദേശം നൽകണം. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ സിറിയൻകത്തോലിക്കരായി ആരുമില്ല. അവരുടെ പ്രധാന തൊഴിൽ കൃഷിയാണു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ വന്നതിനുശേഷം മറ്റൊരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും സിറിയൻകത്തോലിക്കക്കു് പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഇവക്കു് ഇതുവരെ പറയത്തക്ക യാതൊരു പ്രോത്സാഹനവും നൽകിയിട്ടില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കർഷകരായ സിറിയൻകത്തോലിക്കക്കു കുറെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെങ്കിലും കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Iyer : Sir, it is very gratifying to note that the view generally expressed by the honourable members of this House on this demand, were of a constructive nature and that there was not much of criticism. Before dealing with the various points raised by the honourable members, I think it would be right to point out at the very outset and to disabuse them from their minds of a rather erroneous impression regarding the manner in which Government Agricultural Farms work. In these farms, what is usually done is, to carry out a series of cultural manurial or varietal tests by the introduction of improved varieties of seeds, by proper tillage, judicious manuring and by the adoption of other improved practices. Improved methods for the control of pests and diseases are also tested out on various crops in these farms. The department has infused a spirit of enquiry into the minds of the ryot population as regards these new methods of cultivation. Sir,

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what is the criterion that has to be applied to the work in Government Farms ? I have myself visited various agricultural institutions in America and Europe and closely observed the experiments conducted there. I have also visited several important agricultural farms in different parts of India. Nowhere are Government farms looked upon as commercial institutions. Certainly, the people have a right to demand that the work in experimental farms should indirectly contribute a dividend to them. To make myself clear, I shall take the instance of the agricultural farm at Alwaye. An amount to the extent of nearly Rs. 20,000 has been spent in that farm during the past 15 years to demonstrate the possibility of introducing improved varieties of sugarcane in our State. Something like 10 to 12 varieties of canes are under trial in that farm in a systematic manner. These trials have proved a success with the result that more than 2000 acres of sugarcane under cultivation in Travancore have been replaced with the improved P. O. J. varieties which have a larger tonnage and higher sugar content than the ordinary local varieties.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: അതുവായിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ശർക്കര ഉപയോഗിച്ചാൽ ഭയങ്കരമായ സുഖക്കേട് ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ള വിവരം അറിയാമോ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെ സംഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതു് അറിയേണ്ടതാണ്.

Mr. K R. Narayana Aiyar: On account of the introduction and spread of this particular variety of sugarcane, the net annual gain to the cane cultivators of Travancore would be in the neighbourhood of about 2 lakhs of rupees. In the case of experiments, one important point has to be remembered. Some of the experiments may fail while others may give encouraging results ; and the results of successful experiments alone would be papularised amongst the agriculturists. If any of the improved strain cultivated in the farm on modern lines spreads and leads to greater income, that is a sure test of success. Tthat is the criterion that ought to be applied to experimental farms.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: What is the sugar content in that cultivation ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: The particular variety has a sucrose content over 20 per cent.

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[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

What I say is, there seems to be a feeling in this House that Government experimental farms should be looked upon purely from a commercial view point, which is not the correct point of view to be taken.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : What about the Thirupatisaram agricultural farm ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : That farm renders excellent service to the ryot population of Nanjanad. Sir John Russel, the eminent Agricultural Expert of the world famed Rothamsted Experimental Station who visited Travancore some 2 years ago, had occasion to inspect this farm and he has recorded in glowing terms about the lines of work pursued in that farm. In reply to the general discussion on the budget elsewhere, I stated that in the opinion of Sir John Russel the expetiments conducted in the farm are on very sound and satisfactory lines. One who knows the working of the Agricultural Departments in other parts of India can definitely say that our farms compare favourably with any other like institutions in the rest of India. The point I want to emphasise is that the success of an experimental station should be judged by the extent to which it indirectly helps to add to the national income of the country, to the extent to which it really contributes to and subserves the needs of the ryot population. I am fully aware that a large sum of money has been sunk on our experimental farms. Indirectly, how far the people have been benefitted by the results of the investigations and experiments conducted there is the point for consideration. It is this criterion that is to be applied to every one of the departmental farms and those institutions which do not stand this test will not be allowed to continue in future.

One of the honourable members referred to the working of the Pepper Farm. I may say that the institution is being conducted on well established lines and different varieties of vines are under cultivation there. Every attempt is being made to re-orientate the policy of work in that farm, so that the results obtained may be of direct value to the agriculturists at large. If the farm cannot serve that purpose, it will not be continued.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know how long since the farm was established ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : About 20 years.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : For how long was it working on satisfactory lines ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : For about 10 to 12 years.

So then, Sir, the point which I want to emphasise is that if any experimental farm does not contribute to the material prosperity of the ryot population directly or indirectly that is to say, the moment it ceases to be of any use, it will be abolished.

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Now, I shall try to refer to some of the specific points referred to by the honourable members during the course of this debate. Reference was made to the cultivation of ground nuts. The crop was tried in one of our farms. The results were advertised in the Gazette as well as in the newspapers and a certain quantity of seeds was made available to the ryots free of cost. But nobody came forward to cultivate this crop.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know, in which place was that tried ?

Mr. K. R Narayana Aiyar : In Koni.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know, was not the cultivation of ground nut tried with success in South Travancore ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : Yes, to a small extent.

Pointed reference was made to the difficulties that the ryots were facing at the present time in the matter of raising crops. How to bridge the gap between the department and the agriculturists, as one member said, is the problem. Everything possible to improve the condition of the agriculturist is being done by the department. The department was organised about 30 years ago. Its scope and activities have been gradually expanding since then. Intensive propaganda among agriculturists has been pursued from the very inception of the department. New methods and new crops to suit local conditions have been introduced. It is still possible to re-orientate and re-shape some of the existing programmes of the department with a view to bringing the results to the very doors of the ryots. But the chief difficulty now experienced by the ryots is that they have not got the little extra money needed to carry out the advice given by the department. They are steeped in debts. Along with that, there is another drawback also and that is, the extremely fragmented nature of their holdings. A few capitalists have got money but that is not being availed of to the advantage of the ryots. For carrying on large scale farming, for industrialising agriculture, cheap rural credit has to be made available. The question of organised marketing is also an important problem. All this is possible only by co-operative effort. Again, another thing that is required is adequate and timely attention regarding irrigation. The Agricultural Department must have a larger voice on matters relating to irrigation. In this connection I may perhaps enlighten the House on an experience I recently had. Some 2 months ago I convened a conference of the ryots of Sherthalai. The Revenue Commissioner was also present at that time. We had a talk for more than 3 hours on the needs of the agriculturists in the taluk. The ryots said that they were not very particular of improved seeds or manure immediately. What they wanted was deepening of a few canals, putting up of certain bunds to prevent tidal rise of saline water and opening of certain bunds at the right time to permit out-flow of flood water

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[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

Some mention was made about the cold storage. I may say that it was started with the best of intentions. But the scheme was not allowed to be pushed through on account of political agitation. I need not now go into its whole history as the honourable members are fully aware of it. I may say, however, that efforts are being made to restart the operation of the cold storage in collaboration with the Marine Biologist of the Travancore University.

It was remarked during the course of the discussions that agricultural exhibitions were not being held these days. It was not so. The department actually participates in all the important exhibitions that are held throughout the State and exhibits improved seeds, manures, implements etc., and explains them to the visitors.

The honourable member Mr. Kuruvilla referred to the indifference of the Agricultural Inspectors in the discharge of their work. I do not know at what time he had that experience. He himself said that it was some years ago. I may assure the honourable member that they will be made to do their work properly and there will be no occasion for complaint at all in future.

In regard to the adoption of communal representation that was adverted to by another honourable member, I think, that that does not strictly come within my purview. It is a question which has to be decided by the Public Service Commissioner. However, I may assure the member, provided candidates with the requisite qualification apply for the post, due consideration will be given, irrespective of the fact whether they belong to a particular community or not.

Before I close my remarks, I wish to tell the honourable members of the House, that they should not be under the impression that the department has not justified its existence, regard being had to the manner in which it has been constituted. There is not sufficient time at my disposal now to convince them by facts and figures of what the department has actually done. The department has really done good work with the available resources and materials. With the co-operation of the honourable members of this House, I hope it will be possible to do more tangible work by intensive propaganda. I am thankful to them for their concrete suggestions and constructive criticisms in the matter of re-orientating the future policy of the department.

President: The question before the House is that Government, be granted a sum of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV—Agricultural and Fisheries.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

The House adjourned at 4.58 P. M.

Trivandrum,
16th October 1939.

A. GUNAMONY,
Secretary, Sri Chitra State Council.

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